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for All the People  
All the Time

# The Torrance Herald

Torrance  
Population  
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## GROWTH OF TORRANCE BRANCH TOLD AT BANK ANNIVERSARY

J. W. Leech Sees Bank of Italy at Torrance More Than Triple in Growth in 4 Years

James W. Leech, manager of the Torrance branch of the Bank of Italy National Trust and Savings Association, called together the local banking staff, local stockholders and members of the Torrance advisory board this morning at the Torrance bank for an informal celebration of the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Bank of Italy.

Telegrams were read from A. P. Giannini, founder of the great

this institution's 25th birthday. Yield 5 1/2% in 10 Years

"A recent article printed in the San Francisco Chronicle will be of interest to all you stockholders," continued Mr. Leech, reading "Statistics compiled by Transamerica Corporation on October 10, show the present position of a stockholder in the Corporation on the basis of a hypothetical purchase of 100 shares of Beneficial Corporation on May 30, 1919, at the offering



James A. Bacigalupi (left) retiring president of the Bank of Italy since 1924, and Arnold Mount (right) who was nominated by President Bacigalupi as his successor and who will take office today on the 25th anniversary of the bank's establishment.

banking institution, James A. Bacigalupi, retiring president, and Arnold J. Mount, the newly appointed president who takes office today on the silver anniversary of the bank's birth.

Manager Leech made a report of the remarkable growth of the Torrance branch of which he has been the manager since its opening four years ago.

"In the past four years," said Mr. Leech, "the Torrance branch of the Bank of Italy has more than tripled its deposits, and the number of depositors has grown in the same ratio, so that we now have over 2100 depositors at the Torrance branch. This number, of course, is in addition to the Christmas club memberships.

"Over fifty Torrance residents are now stockholders in the Bank of Italy National Trust & Savings Association," said Leech, "so the phenomenal growth and prosperity of this great banking institution has been shared to a large degree by local residents."

Monday, October 17, the Bank of Italy is celebrating its Silver Anniversary. It is doubtful if any other banking institution has experienced a more eventful period than has the Bank of Italy in the twenty-five years that have intervened since it opened its doors for business on the morning of October 17, 1904, with A. P. Giannini, its first president, and four employees prepared to serve customers. Certainly none has left its impress more indelibly upon our times, an achievement none the less remarkable—and which must appeal to every Californian—when it is considered that the bank is located three thousand miles from Wall Street to which the country is accustomed to look for financial leadership.

"It so happens that, in accordance with the policy of rotation in office established by Mr. Giannini, Mr. James A. Bacigalupi's five year term as president ends on the anniversary date, and Arnold J. Mount becomes president, serving for five years, at which time his successor will be chosen from among the ranking officers. In recognition of Mr. Bacigalupi's outstanding service, the board of directors are tendering him a banquet in San Francisco which is also in the nature of a celebration of



JAMES W. LEECH  
Manager, Torrance Branch

appreciation in the market value of shares held, with dividends received, totals \$616,611. This amounts to an average profit per share purchased of \$59, or 5 1/2 percent for the period, or approximately 49 percent for each year.

In addition to erecting a beautiful new banking building since it took over the Bank of America in Torrance, the Bank of Italy has also constructed commodious quarters on its property adjoining the banking house for the Torrance Chamber of Commerce.

The members of the Torrance branch advisory board, serving with Manager J. W. Leech are: Frank H. Steinhilber, Dr. A. P. Stevenson, Frank Sammons, A. Brady Wolfe and L. J. Acree.

### Rev. Speed, New Baptist Pastor Speaks Sunday

Rev. John B. Speed, who has just accepted the pastorate of the Torrance Baptist church, will speak at both services Sunday. At the 11 a. m. service his subject will be "God's Picture of a Man" and at 7:30 p. m. service his topic will be "Commendable Extravagance."

## What Do They Keep In The Star Chamber?

Have you ever wondered what is in a star chamber? Well, among other things in the new star chamber of the City Council, there will be six chairs, 1 desk, and several cuspidors, which were authorized to be purchased this week by the city council. The new star chamber is being built in the police station and will serve as a confidential meeting place for the council and a private office of the chief of police.

## BELL NAMES GARDEN CLUB COMMITTEES

New Groups at Work on Plans for Home and Community Improvement

Mr. C. B. Bell, recently elected president of the Torrance District Garden club, announces the appointment of the following committees: program committee, Herbert Wood, chairman; Louis E. Brown, Mrs. Claire Haskins and Mrs. Dorothy Jamieson; exhibitors and display committee, John H. King, chairman; Roy Berry and Miss Mary L. Baldrick; membership committee, Mrs. J. F. Anderson, chairman; Mrs. D. A. Baxter and William Pearson; publicity, Mrs. W. C. Darnell.

Community chairman: Gardena-Moneta, Mrs. Claire Haskins; Keystone, Charles L. Boef; Lomita, H. M. Bailey; Torrance, R. J. DeJankov.

A definite program, which will include not only meetings with speakers, but will take up projects for community improvement, is being planned. The club hopes to accomplish this through action of the City Council, co-operation with the schools, suggestion and co-operation of property owners and direct work done by its members in the name of the club.

To accomplish this aim, the Torrance District Garden club solicits the interest and approval of all civic and service organizations and the public spirited people of the community.

## FIRE DEPT. IN ONE WEEK OF THRILLS

Fire prevention week was celebrated in Torrance last week by a number of spectacular events staged by the fire department and talks to the schools and various organizations.

Inspector Rice of the Bureau of Public Relations, safety first commission, spoke at the Rotary club on Thursday, the Kiwanis club on Friday and at the Torrance theatre Friday evening.

Fire drill was held at the high school, the buildings being emptied in one minute and five seconds. The fire truck arrived at the school one minute and 35 seconds after the call had been placed. At the elementary school, fire drill was held and the buildings were cleared in one minute 35 seconds, and the truck arrived in two minutes and 20 seconds after the call was placed.

Olle Stevenson thrilled spectators Friday evening when he jumped from a downtown building to the life net held by members of the fire department. He also leaped from the school during the exhibition there.

## Car Leaps Curb; Wrecks Pepper Tree, Light Standard

A. W. Anderson of 1109 South Flower street, Los Angeles, crashed over the curb and into a light pole about 3 o'clock Wednesday morning on Arlington avenue between 220th and 222nd streets. A large pepper tree was uprooted by the impact also.

In his statement to the police he said he was traveling south on Arlington and when he attempted to pass another car going the same direction, he lost control of his machine and the crash was the result.

### ROYAL NEIGHBORS

The Royal Neighbors will meet on Friday evening, Oct. 18 at the K. C. hall. All members are urged to attend. Visiting Neighbors are always welcome.

## BETTER AND CHEAPER WATER

False Rumors and Propaganda Denied—State Railroad Commission Has No Authority Over Municipally Owned Utilities

By GROVER C. WHYTE

Just as we expected, false rumors and propaganda injurious to a municipally owned water system are now circulating. We are not interested in who is starting them but we are most heartily interested in giving the good people of Torrance the FACTS and UNBIASED TRUTH concerning all phases of this new municipally owned water system upon which the people will soon be asked to vote in order that they may have better and cheaper water.

First of all, there is a story going around that the railroad commission might not allow the City of Torrance to install and operate its own water system. WELL, THAT'S A LIE! The State Railroad Commission has ABSOLUTELY NO AUTHORITY OVER ANY MUNICIPALLY OWNED WATER SYSTEM, LIGHTING SYSTEM, GAS SYSTEM, or any other type of city-owned or mutually owned public utility. Here's the law:

### "CALIFORNIA RAILROAD COMMISSION "CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS"

"Article XI

"Sec. 19. Any municipal corporation may establish and operate public works for supplying its inhabitants with light, water, power, heat, transportation, telephone service or other means of communication. Such works may be acquired by original construction or by the purchase of existing works, including their franchises, or both. Persons or corporations may establish and operate works for supplying the inhabitants with such services upon such conditions and under such regulations as the municipality may prescribe under its organic law, on condition that the municipal government shall have the right to regulate the charges thereof."

But just to make doubly sure on this point, we called up the office of the State Railroad Commission this week, and they confirmed our statement that the Railroad Commission has no authority over city-owned and operated water systems. The City of Torrance may construct its own water distributing system and develop its own water supply without interference from the state or without consideration of any privately owned system that may now be serving the district. The City of Torrance also has the right to establish the rates to be charged by its municipally owned system.

Now there is another rumor that we would like to nail to the mast. Some people have the impression that the pipe lines of the present Torrance Water, Light and Power Company are owned by the City of Torrance. This is not correct. The City of Torrance has no interest directly or indirectly with the present water system. In fact, the present water company doesn't even have a franchise with the City of Torrance. According to City Attorney P. G. Briney, there is no agreement or contract of any nature between the City of Torrance and the present water company, which of course is privately owned.

Again, we say, there is absolutely nothing to prevent the City of Torrance, after approval of the water bonds, from constructing an all new municipally owned water distributing system, paralleling the present lines of the Torrance Water, Light and Power Company. And this is exactly what the City Council proposes to do. City Engineer Frank Leonard has promised to submit his report on the new water system at a special meeting of the City Council on Tuesday, October 29. The Council will then set a date for the bond election. If two-thirds of the voters approve the bonds, the City will install its own system.

Have you sent in your postcard questionnaire yet? Out of 629 replies all but three expressed dissatisfaction with the present water situation. The average water bill of these 629 consumers is \$3.65, which is much too high, especially for such distasteful water. Add to this \$3.65, the money spent for bottled drinking water and you have a figure that is easily three times what it ought to be.

The following remarks taken from a few of the postcard questionnaires, give an idea of the way the people of Torrance feel about the present water situation:

"My gold fish die drinking Torrance water. What would this poor fish do, and still the C. of C. advocates prohibition. Get decent water here and I'll sign the pledge and wear a white ribbon."

"Water unfit to drink."

"The water is punk and the price unreasonable."

"When this house is not occupied, the water bill is reasonable. When it is occupied, the bill is beyond reason."

"I quit swearing."

"Give us good water like we had 10 years ago."

"Entirely too high. Have found weeds in it."

"Too much money for water."

"I would be glad to have better water."

"Average bill \$9.50—an outrageous cost."

"Will help you any way I can."

"Dictionary too poor for right words."

"I will do all I can to get better and cheaper water."

"Present water conditions are a serious drawback"

## Andy Digs Sewers With His Head

The old idea that sewer digging was 90 percent brawn and ten percent pick and shovel, was refuted last week when Superintendent of Streets Wm. Gascoigne proved that the way to dig sewers successfully is by using your head.

A rush order was received at the city hall for a 1310 foot extension to the sewer line in order to connect up with the new plant of the D. & M. Machine Works on Artisanne avenue. Under the old method of picks and shovels, Gascoigne says it would have cost about \$1400 to construct the sewer, but he obtained the use of a big power sewer digging machine and dug the trench for \$58, and kept the total cost of the 1310 foot extension down to \$435.

"This means a net saving to taxpayers of \$1000, in addition to giving an important new industry quick service," said Councilman Ed Nelson at the council meeting this week, who brought the efficient action of the street superintendent to the attention of the city dads.

At the request of the D. & M. Machine company, the city council authorized the street department to surface Artisanne avenue in front of the new factory with rock and oil. At present the street is in bad condition and needs grading.

## P. E. TRAIN HITS AUTO; ONE KILLED

Japanese Father and Son in Fatal Accident on East Road

One man was killed and another seriously injured shortly after 1 o'clock Friday afternoon, when the car in which they were riding was struck by a Pacific Electric train at 208th and East roads.

Mr. Nagayama, of Gardena, aged father of the driver of the car, died a few minutes after reaching the Jared Sidney Torrance Memorial hospital. He was literally crushed.

Y. Nagayama, the son, sustained five broken ribs, a bump on his head and a badly lacerated ear. Further injuries were not determined before he was taken to a Japanese hospital. He is 42 years of age.

## WILD RIDE OF BOYS WRECK CAR AND TIRES

Frank Steinhilber was the victim of vandals' youth Monday evening, when two mischief-making boys took his car from in front of the Boy Scout clubhouse and drove it over curbs or railroad tracks, rattling the tires, breaking the snubbers and doing considerable other damage in their wild ride.

They were seen to crash into another car in front of Riley's Confectionery on Redondo boulevard at Fortna and push it ten feet along the pavement. At this point in the wild ride, the youths are said to have backed away from the other car, run to the front of the Steinhilber sedan and shout, "Only a bumper busted!"

Then they drove up to the corner, where five or six other youths jumped into the Steinhilber car and the thrill crazed youths sped away. The Steinhilber car, which is a Chandler Sedan, was returned to the Scout Hall on Carson street where it was found in its damaged state. All the tires were flattened, and upon examination were found to have been apparently driven at considerable speed over steep curbs or rills as the heavy 6-ply tires were shattered to shreds. The car had been driven on the flat tires and all four tires were destroyed.

Chief of Police Calder is investigating the affair and stated that the identity of some of the boys who joined the gang of the Riley corner had been established, and that if they would appear at the police station and confess that no action would be taken against them since they were not the boys who took and drove the car. However, if these confessions are not made within a short time, Chief Calder says that every boy who is known to have been implicated in the wild ride will be placed under arrest.

## REAL ESTATE MEN DISCUSS TORRANCE HOUSING PROBLEM

Local Firms Plan Real Estate Organization to Work with Chamber of Commerce in Solving Housing Problem

Last Monday evening the real estate men of Torrance met under the auspices of the Chamber of Commerce to discuss the housing problem and their relation to it as well as various questions of general policy. Those present were Wallace Post, chairman of the Public Relations Committee of the Chamber; Mr. and Mrs. J. E. King, W. Rufus Page, J. C. Smith, G. A. R. Steiner, W. A. Fogarty, Charles Vandenberg, Postmaster Alfred Gourdeur, E. Standish Palmer, man-

to put a definite program into effect. He called attention to the fact that the effectiveness of this department and its activities would be largely limited by the type and amount of co-operative endeavor displayed by groups such as that gathered at the meeting. He concluded his remarks by introducing Mr. E. Standish Palmer, manager of the housing department.

Mr. Palmer compared the situation in Torrance to that in other areas in which he has worked,

## The Realtor's Relationship to the Housing Program

By E. STANDISH PALMER, Manager Housing Department, Torrance Chamber of Commerce

In any housing program the problems in connection with land are of paramount importance in the solution. For this reason the recent meeting of the real estate men of this community to discuss the situation is of particular significance. An has been amply proved by trade and professional associations for group study, discussion and action toward a common end and dedicated to the benefit of both members and general public this move on the part of the Torrance realty profession is a great forward step from which much practical good may be expected.

An organization of this kind makes possible the accumulation of a wide fund of knowledge for the purpose of study and analysis. It provides an open forum for the solution of professional problems or difficulties and furnishes an effective means of putting into effect well considered programs for the general welfare of Torrance as a whole. It furnishes a bulwark of protection to Torrance people against the uncertain and questionable outside promoter and adds to the members in providing the best possible service to their clients.

For these reasons it is hoped that every member of the Torrance realty profession will actively assist this combined effort toward the great Torrance of tomorrow and the common benefit dedicated to just such types of service and every assistance possible will be rendered to this end.

manager of the Housing Department of the Chamber and Secretary Carl L. Hyde.

The meeting was opened by Carl Hyde who briefly reviewed the formation of the Housing Department of the Chamber of Commerce by the Board of Directors for the purpose of establishing a centralized disinterested agency to study the housing needs of Torrance and in co-operation with existing agencies

mentioning several projects in New York City, Buffalo, Niagara Falls, Chicago and Los Angeles. Of all his contacts he considered Torrance the most interesting because of its firm economic situation due to its diversified industry, its original planned start, its tremendous potential future and the high character of its business men and general population. He referred to co-operation with existing agencies

(Continued on Next Page)

## Public to Hear Voices From All Over Globe Monday, Oct. 21

Wherever electric lights burn; wherever motion pictures are shown; wherever a phonograph sounds; wherever a telegraph clicks; wherever a radio sings—in fact, wherever civilized man finds himself on October 21, there will be within the influence of the Wizard of Menlo Park, whose inventions have changed the lives of millions since that October night, fifty years ago, when the first successful incandescent lamp was produced. Light's Golden Jubilee began officially in Atlantic City with the convention of the National Electric Light Association and will conclude on October 21 with a banquet in Dearborn, Michigan, given by Henry Ford to Mr. Edison and attended by America's leaders.

This will be a world-wide tribute to Mr. Edison, as arrangements have been made to transmit greetings from foreign dignitaries and in turn to broadcast the entire proceedings through the greatest radio hookup that has ever been made.

The program will then become international in scope, when will be heard such dignitaries as Dr. Einstein talking from his home in Berlin, Germany, Premier Benito Mussolini from Rome, Italy, and other world famous personages from Japan, Austria, Australia and throughout the world.

Officials of the National Broadcasting Company stated today that final arrangements had not yet been made for the Mussolini broadcast, but one of the greatest international radio hookups will be made in honor of the electrical wizard and the 50th anniversary of his invention.

## CITY TRUCKS GATHER 375 LOADS DEBRIS

Over 375 heaping loads of rubbish were collected from Torrance property last week by city trucks in the semi-annual clean-up week drive. This is 50 loads more than was gathered last year, according to Wm. Gascoigne, superintendent of streets.

"Now that Torrance has been cleaned up, we hope that property owners and others will endeavor to keep it so," said Gascoigne, "and the city trucks will resume their regular weekly collections of rubbish left in the alleys or parking. Please do not leave grass cuttings or other refuse in the gutters, as this clogs the storm drains and floods street crossings during the rains." The street Superintendent requests.

## Water Company Writes Letter to Council

A letter from A. J. Robert, general manager of the Torrance Water, Light & Power Company, regarding the water situation in Torrance was read at the council meeting this week. The full text of the letter is published in an advertisement by the water company in this issue.

After a brief discussion, the Council instructed the city clerk to acknowledge the receipt of the letter and inform Mr. Robert that he may present his views at any regular meeting of the city council. It was explained that this is a courtesy extended to any citizen or property owner, and should not be interpreted as a commitment one way or another by the council. The statements made in the letter from the water company.

### BILL THE BARBER SAYS

The best way for a woman to keep a man at a distance is by marrying him.